

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

contact: Marcia McBrien | (517) 373-0129

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***A JOURNALIST'S GUIDE TO COVERING MICHIGAN STATE COURTS* PUBLISHED BY MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION**

LANSING, MI, December 17, 2009 – Journalists who cover Michigan's state courts have a new resource: a handbook published by the Michigan Supreme Court Office of Public Information.

Although written with the media in mind, *A Journalist's Guide to Covering Michigan State Courts* is for anyone who is interested in learning more about Michigan's justice system, according to Michigan Supreme Court Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly.

"This guide is designed to help reporters cover the courts with accuracy, fairness, and respect for the process," the chief justice said. "Too, it is a resource for people who simply want to know more about our state courts."

Kelly added, "Covering the courts is a difficult assignment, but a critical one for a free society. Journalists are the public's eyes and ears, holding government accountable and keeping citizens informed. This handbook is the Court's contribution toward assisting journalists with that demanding role."

The handbook includes an overview of the state court system, as well as a glossary of legal terms, tips for journalists, and rules governing access to court files and proceedings. *A Journalist's Guide* also covers the attorney and judicial discipline systems, cameras in court, basic procedures in civil and criminal cases, and trial publicity.

Copies of *A Journalist's Guide* are available by contacting the Michigan Supreme Court Office of Public Information at MSC-Info@courts.mi.gov; the guide is also online at <http://www.courts.mi.gov/supremecourt/press/JournalistsGuide/>.

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